

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A computer implemented method comprising:
storing product data on a server coupled to receive requests from client devices over a network, the product data representing one or more products offered by the server, wherein the requests from the client devices are received for purchasing at least one of the offered products;
generating a set of one or more common search requests for subsets of the product data based on ~~a frequency of previously received~~ how often the search requests for requesting the subsets of the product data have been received by the server from the client devices previously, wherein a search request is designated as a common search request if a number of the search requests received at the server from the client devices within a predetermined period of time exceeds a predetermined threshold ~~and designation of a search request as a common search request if the search request requests for at least a portion of the subsets of the product data;~~
performing searches in one or more databases associated with the server in response to the set of common search requests to identify one or more products;
storing on the server a result of the searches based on the common search requests associated with the identified one or more products;
receiving at the server a subsequent search request from a client device over the network;

the server determining whether the subsequent search request is equivalent to one of the previously performed common search requests whose search results are stored in the server;
providing results from the stored results of the common search requests previously generated in response to the common search requests without performing a search for the subsequent search request, if the subsequent search request is equivalent to one of the common search requests; ~~and~~
performing the search for the subsequent search request if the subsequent search request is not equivalent to one of the previously performed common search requests; and
designating the subsequent search request as a common request if a number of the subsequent search request received within the predetermined period of time exceeds the predetermined threshold.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the product data is stored on one of a plurality of servers, and further wherein all requests from a particular user during a session are directed to a single server.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein a session comprises all requests that occur between a first request of the session and a predetermined period of time during which no requests are received by the server.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3, wherein the product data and information related to the session are maintained in volatile memory of the server.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the set of one or more common search requests comprises one or more searches for a category of information related to various products including at least one medicine product offered by the server over the network.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~4~~6 wherein the data stores product information for use with an electronic commerce World Wide Web site, and wherein at least one search request for at least one medicine product is designated as a common search request based on whether the at least one search request for the at least one medicine product is commonly used in a specific season of a year at the time of the at least one request is received at the server.

8. (Currently Amended) A machine-readable medium having stored thereon sequences of instructions that, when executed by one or more processors, cause one or more electronic devices to:

store product data on a server coupled to receive requests from client devices over a network, the product data representing one or more products offered by the server, wherein the requests from the client devices are received for purchasing at least one of the offered products;

generate a set of one or more common search requests for subsets of the product data based on how often the ~~a frequency of previously received~~ search requests for

requesting the subsets of the product data have been received by the server
from the client devices previously, wherein a search request is designated as a
common search request if a number of the search requests received at the
server from the client devices within a predetermined period of time exceeds a
predetermined threshold~~and designation of a search request as a common~~
~~search request if the search request requests for at least a portion of the subsets~~
~~of the product data;~~

perform searches in one or more databases associated with the server in response to the
common search requests to identify one or more products;

store on the server a result of the searches based on the common search requests
associated with the identified one or more products;

receive at the server a subsequent search request from a client device over the network;

determine by the server whether the subsequent search request is equivalent to one of
the previously performed common search requests;

provide results from the stored results of the common search requests previously
generated in response to the common search requests without performing a
search for the subsequent search request, if the subsequent search request is
equivalent to one of the common search requests; ~~and~~

perform the search for the subsequent search request if the subsequent search request
is not equivalent to one of the previously performed common search requests;
and

designate the subsequent search request as a common request if a number of the
subsequent search request received within the predetermined period of time
exceeds the predetermined threshold.

9. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 8 wherein the product data is stored on one of a plurality of servers, and further wherein all requests from a particular user during a session are directed to the server.

10. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 9 wherein a session comprises all requests that occur between a first request of the session and a predetermined period of time during which no requests are received by a single server.

11. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 10, wherein the product data and information related to the session are maintained in volatile memory of the server.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently Amended) The machine-readable medium of claim 8 wherein the set of one or more common search requests comprises one or more searches for a category of information related to various products including at least one medicine product offered by the server over the network.

14. (Currently Amended) The machine-readable medium of claim ~~8~~13 wherein the database stores product information for use with an electronic commerce World Wide Web site, and wherein at least one search request for at least one medicine product is designated as a common search request based on whether the at least one search request for the at least one

medicine product is commonly used in a specific season of a year at the time of the at least one request is received at the server.

15.-20. (Canceled)

21. (Currently Amended) A computer data signal embodied in transmission medium comprising instructions that, when executed by one or more processors, cause one or more electronic devices to:

store product data on a server coupled to receive requests from client devices over a network, the product data representing one or more products offered by the server, wherein the requests from the client devices are received for purchasing at least one of the offered products;

generate a set of one or more common search requests for subsets of the product data based on how often the ~~a frequency of previously received~~ search requests for requesting the subsets of the product data have been received by the server from the client devices previously, wherein a search request is designated as a common search request if a number of the search requests received at the server from the client devices within a predetermined period of time exceeds a predetermined threshold ~~and designation of a search request as a common search request if the search request requests for at least a portion of the subsets of the product data;~~

perform searches in one or more databases associated with the server in response to the set of common search requests to identify one or more products;

store on the server a result of searches based on the common search requests;

receive at the server a subsequent search request from a client device over the network;
determine by the server whether the subsequent search request is equivalent to one of
the previously performed common search requests;
provide results from the stored results of the common search requests previously
generated in response to the common search requests without performing a
search for the subsequent search request, if the subsequent search request is
equivalent to one of the common search requests; ~~and~~
perform the search for the subsequent search request if the subsequent search request
is not equivalent to one of the previously performed common search requests;
and
designate the subsequent search request as a common request if a number of the
subsequent search request received within the predetermined period of time
exceeds the predetermined threshold.

22. (Previously Presented) The computer data signal of claim 21 wherein the product data is stored on one of a plurality of servers, and further wherein all requests from a particular user during a session are directed to the server.

23. (Previously Presented) The computer data signal of claim 22 wherein a session comprises all requests that occur between a first request of the session and a predetermined period of time during which no requests are received by a single server.

24. (Previously Presented) The computer data signal of claim 23, wherein the product data and information related to the session are maintained in volatile memory of the server.

25. (Canceled)

26. (Currently Amended) The computer data signal of claim 21 wherein the set of one or more common search requests comprises one or more searches for a category of information related to various products including at least one medicine product offered by the server over the network.

27. (Currently Amended) The computer data signal of claim ~~21~~26 wherein the database stores product information for use with an electronic commerce World Wide Web site, and wherein at least one search request for at least one medicine product is designated as a common search request based on whether the at least one search request for the at least one medicine product is commonly used in a specific season of a year at the time of the at least one request is received at the server.